

REMARKS

The undersigned would like to thank the Examiner for extending him the courtesy of a meeting in his office on 21 February 2003 to discuss the present application.

In the office action mailed 3 October 2002, Claims 1- 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Smith (5330232). Figure 4 of Smith shows a label 28 including an adhesive that is pressed into contact with the inside surface of a window 30 (column 3, lines 56-59). Smith teaches that when this is done, non-variable indicia 25 and variable indicia 27 are visible and readable through window 30 (column 3, lines 59-62). In figure 4, label 28 is shown extending across the entire length of window 30.

Applicant's claimed method, as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 4 includes the step of forming a protective covering on a surface of a pane using a masking material. The protective covering is sized and positioned so that an unmasked apron of the surface extends between an outer periphery of the protective covering and an outer periphery of the pane. The unmasked apron is large enough to receive a sash yet small enough that the protective covering protects a portion of the pane not covered by the sash.

Unlike the protective covering produced using Applicant's claimed method, label 28 disclosed by Smith in figure 4 extends across the entire length of window 30. Because the label taught by Smith extends across the entire length of window 30, any attempt to mate a sash with the window shown in figure 4 would result in the sash overlaying label 28. The fact that a sash would overlay label 28 demonstrates that Smith does not teach the step of forming a protective covering such that there remains an unmasked apron that is large enough to receive a sash yet small enough that the protective covering protects a portion of the pane not covered by the sash.

Because Smith does not teach all the steps recited in independent claims 1 and 4, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are not anticipated by Smith. Accordingly, amended independent claims 1 and 4 are now in condition for allowance. Claim 2 depends from independent claim 1 and recites additional limitations. Claims 5 - 8 depend from independent claim 4 and recite additional limitations. Applicant respectfully submits that these dependent claims are also in condition for allowance.

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith (5330232) in view of Bigler (1284997). The disclosure of Smith is described above. As noted by the Examiner on page 3 of the office action, Smith does not show a protective covering comprising a plurality of strips.

Bigler describes a roof construction in which a "fabric is supplied in one width only." (Page 1, lines 62-63.) Strips of varying width are obtained by "cutting the fabric throughout it's length." (Page 1, lines 65-66.) A first, narrow strip of fabric 3 is laid on the lowest edge of a roof as shown in figure 1. A second strip of fabric 4 twice as wide as the first strip 3 is laid over the first strip 4. A third strip of fabric 5 three times as wide as the first strip 3, is laid over both first strip 3 and second strip 4. Then, a fourth strip of fabric 6 four times as wide as first strip 3, is laid over first strip 3, second strip 4, and third strip 5. (page 1, lines 48-60.) "The object of laying the roof in this way is to have it, when completed, of exactly four-ply thickness throughout." (Page 1, lines 93-96.) In figure 1, the fabric strips 3, 4, 5, 6, etc. are shown extending across the entire length of the roof.

Applicant's claimed invention as recited in independent claim 9 comprises an insulating glass unit including a first pane having a first surface and a protective covering disposed over a masked portion of the first surface of the first pane. The protective covering is sized and positioned so that an unmasked apron of the first surface extends between an outer periphery of the protective covering

and an outer periphery of the pane. The unmasked apron is large enough to receive a sash yet small enough that the protective covering protects a portion of the first pane not covered by the sash.

Unlike the protective covering recited in Applicant's claim 9, the sheathing 1 disclosed by Bigler extends across the entire length of a roof. Also unlike the protective covering recited in Applicant's claim 9, the label 28 disclosed by Smith in figure 4 extends across the entire length of a window. Unlike Smith or Bigler, Applicant teaches a protective covering surrounded by an unmasked apron that is large enough to receive a sash yet small enough that the protective covering protects a portion of the pane not covered by the sash. Because the label taught by Smith extends across the entire length of window 30, any attempt to mate a sash with the window taught by Smith would result in the sash overlaying label 28. Because the sheathing 1 taught by Bigler extends across the entire roof, the combination of Bigler and Smith does not teach an unmasked apron large enough to receive a sash.

Because neither Smith nor Bigler teach an unmasked apron that is large enough to receive a sash, Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention is not rendered obvious by this combination of references. Accordingly, amended independent claim 9 is now in condition for allowance. Claims 10-25 depend from independent claim 9 and recite additional limitations. Applicant respectfully submits that these dependent claims are also in condition for allowance.

Claims 26-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith (5330232) in view of Bigler (1284997). As noted by the Examiner on page 5 of the office action, Smith as modified by Bigler does not teach the steps of calculating a number of strips and calculating an overlap dimension. Also, as noted above, the label taught by Smith extends across the entire length of a window, and the sheathing taught by Bigler extends across the entire length of a roof.

Applicant's claimed method as recited in amended claim 26 is a method comprising the steps of calculating a number of strips and an overlap dimension for forming a protective covering

dimensioned so that an unmasked apron of a surface of a pane surrounds the protective covering.

Forming a protective covering in this manner allows the unmasked apron to receive a sash.

Because neither Smith nor Bigler teach methods capable of forming a protective covering surrounded by an unmasked apron for receiving a sash, Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention is not rendered obvious by this combination of references. Accordingly, amended independent claim 26 is now in condition for allowance. Claims 27, 28, and 32 depend from independent claim 26 and recite additional limitations. Applicant respectfully submits that these dependent claims are also in condition for allowance.

Claim 29 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith (5330232). Smith discloses a method for the production of labels which are printed with non-variable indicia, and then sent to an ultimate user site for the printing of variable indicia (column 1, lines 13-17). The label may be put on a transparent surface like a store window or the windshield of a vehicle (column 1, lines 6-9).

Applicant's invention as recited in amended claim 29 is a method comprising the step applying a protective covering to a pane, attaching an information bearing sheet to the protective covering, and transporting the information bearing sheet and the window assembly to a point of use. Claim 29 recites that the protective covering is sized and positioned so that an unmasked apron of the pane surrounds the protective covering.

Because Smith does not teach the step of transporting a window assembly, Applicant respectfully submits that this reference does not render the claimed invention obvious. Accordingly, amended independent claim 29 is now in condition for allowance. New claims 30-31 depend from independent claim 26 and recite additional limitations. Applicant respectfully submits that these dependent claims are also in condition for allowance.

In light of the above discussion, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims are in condition for allowance and courteously requests prompt notice of the same. If a telephone conference would be of assistance, please contact the undersigned practitioner at 612/492-7000.

Respectfully submitted,



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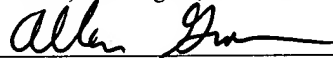
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